

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An intellectual property expense management system
comprising:

a debit note managing unit that manages debit note
information sent from a firm that is commissioned to handle
10 application of an intellectual property right, the debit note
information including expense information pertaining to the
application;

a progress information managing unit that manages progress
information pertaining to a progress of the application; and

15 an attaching unit that attaches the progress information
to the debit note information.

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2. The intellectual property expense management system as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising an attached information
managing unit that manages the attached information including
the progress information attached to the debit note information.

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3. The intellectual property expense management system as
5 claimed in claim 1, wherein the attaching unit attaches the
progress information to the debit note information according to
a case code for identifying the application that is included in
the progress information and the debit note information.

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4. The intellectual property expense management system as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

15 an expense information generation unit that is adapted to
generate common expense information based on the debit note
information, the common expense information being shared within
a company that manages expense information pertaining to a
plurality of applications; and

20 a common expense information managing unit that manages
the common expense information generated by the expense
generation unit.

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5. The intellectual property expense management system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a progress information updating unit that updates the progress information based on the debit note information.

10 6. An expense management system comprising:
a business partner terminal apparatus that is adapted to send invoice information and debit note information that is generated based on the invoice information; and
an expense management apparatus that is adapted to manage
15 the invoice information and the debit note information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus;
wherein the expense management apparatus includes:
calculation means for calculating debit information based on the invoice information sent from the business partner
20 terminal apparatus, thereby generating calculated debit information; and
accuracy determination means for comparing the calculated debit information obtained by the calculation means and the debit note information sent from the business partner terminal
25 apparatus, and determining whether the debit note information

sent from the business partner terminal apparatus corresponds to the calculated debit information.

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7. The expense management system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the expense management apparatus includes notification means for sending a debit information verification request to the business partner terminal apparatus when it is determined by the accuracy determination means that the debit note information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus does not correspond to the calculated debit information.

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8. The expense management system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the expense management apparatus includes estimation means for estimating debit information corresponding to an order for which invoice information is not yet sent from the business partner terminal apparatus, the estimation being based on a past record of the invoice information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus.

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9. An expense management system comprising:

5 a business partner terminal apparatus that is adapted to
send invoice information and debit note information that is
generated based on the invoice information;

an expense management apparatus that is adapted to manage
the invoice information and the debit note information sent
10 from the business terminal apparatus; wherein

the expense management apparatus includes estimation means
for estimating debit information corresponding to an order for
which invoice information is not yet sent from the business
partner terminal apparatus, the estimation being based on a
15 past record of the invoice information sent from the business
partner terminal apparatus.

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10. An expense management apparatus comprising:

a first storage unit for storing invoice information that
is sent from a business partner terminal apparatus;

a second storage unit for storing debit note information
25 that is sent from the business partner terminal apparatus;

calculation means for calculating debit information based on the invoice information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus, thereby generating calculated debit information; and

5 accuracy determination means for comparing the calculated debit information obtained by the calculation means and the debit note information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus, and determining whether the debit note information sent from the business partner terminal apparatus corresponds
10 to the calculated debit information.

15 11. The expense management apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising notification means for sending a debit information verification request to the business partner terminal apparatus when it is determined by the accuracy determination means that the debit note information sent from
20 the business partner terminal apparatus does not correspond to the calculated debit information.

12. The expense management apparatus as claimed in claim
10, further comprising estimation means for estimating debit
information corresponding to an order for which invoice
information is not yet sent from the business partner terminal
5 apparatus, the estimation being based on a past record of the
invoice information sent from the business partner terminal
apparatus.

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13. An expense management apparatus that receives invoice
information and debit note information generated based on the
invoice information from a business partner terminal apparatus,
15 and manages the invoice information and the debit note
information from the business partner terminal apparatus, the
expense management apparatus comprising:

estimation means for estimating debit information
corresponding to an order for which invoice information is not
20 yet received from the business partner terminal apparatus, the
estimation being based on a past record of the invoice
information received from the business partner terminal
apparatus.

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14. An expense management method comprising:

a calculation step in which an expense management
5 apparatus calculates debit information based on invoice
information sent from a business partner terminal apparatus,
thereby to generate calculated debit information; and
an accuracy determination step in which the expense
management apparatus compares the calculated debit information
10 obtained in the calculation step and debit note information
generated at the business partner terminal apparatus and sent
to the expense management apparatus, and determines whether the
debit note information sent from the business partner terminal
apparatus corresponds to the calculated debit information.

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15. The expense management method as claimed in claim 14,

20 further comprising:

a notification step in which the expense management
apparatus sends a debit information verification request to the
business partner terminal apparatus upon determining in the
accuracy determination step that the debit note information
25 sent from the business partner terminal apparatus is not

accurate.

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16. The expense management method as claimed in claim 14,
further comprising:

an estimation step in which the expense management
apparatus estimates debit information corresponding to an order
10 for which invoice information is not yet sent from the business
partner terminal apparatus, the estimation being based on a
past record of the invoice information sent from the business
partner terminal apparatus.

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17. An expense management method for managing invoice
information and debit note information sent from a business
20 partner, the method comprising:

estimating debit information corresponding to an order for
which invoice information is not yet sent from the business
partner, the estimation being based on a past record of the
invoice information sent from the business partner.

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